

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 6, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Republican Leader McConnell, Chairman Baucus, and Ranking Member Hatch:

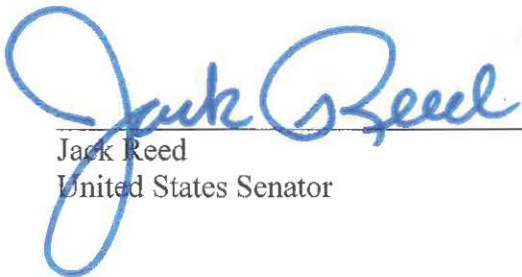
We are writing to urge the continuation of federal support for unemployment insurance, a critical component of our ongoing recovery and a lifeline to millions of Americans as they search for work in this challenging economy. As it stands now, a few days after the holiday season ends, unemployment insurance will abruptly terminate, cutting off support for 1.3 million Americans.

Despite the tremendous uncertainty caused by the brinksmanship over funding the government and near-default, the economy has had 45 straight months of private sector job growth and created a total of 8.1 million jobs over that period. However, we are still far from regaining the ground lost during the Great Recession. The national unemployment rate has hovered around and over 7 percent and 10.9 million Americans are out of work and looking for a job. Unemployed workers continue to face a daunting labor market, where for every one job opening, there are approximately 3 unemployed workers. That's why it's imperative that we pass legislation that will get Americans back to work and that we don't let unemployment insurance terminate at the end of the year.

Federal support for unemployment insurance has been a major boon to millions of Americans that have been laid off through no fault of their own. Since July 2008 unemployment insurance has provided over \$255 billion in direct support. Over that period of time, we have made significant reforms, like those that avert layoffs and help people find work faster. Our constituents and the economy still need the support; the Economic Policy Institute estimates that the expiration of unemployment insurance will cost the economy 310,000 jobs and slow growth by 0.2 percent over the course of next year.

Continuation of unemployment insurance has traditionally passed on a bipartisan basis because of the tremendous support it provides to the unemployed, their families, and the economy. We urge you to ensure that unemployment insurance is continued before its expiration at the end of the year.

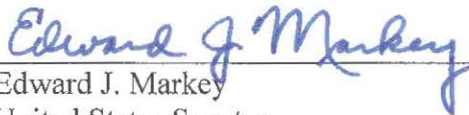
Sincerely,



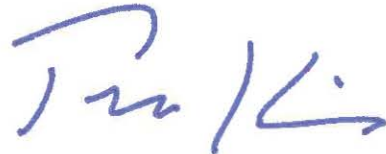
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Tom Harkin
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



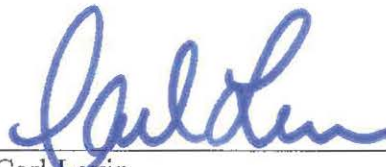
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



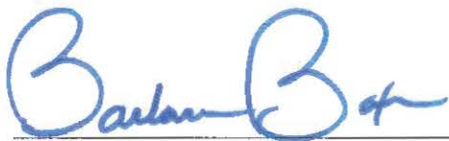
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



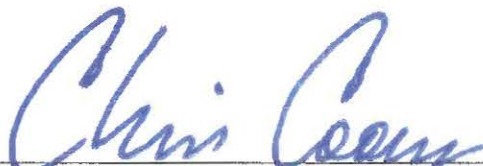
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Carl Levin
United States Senator



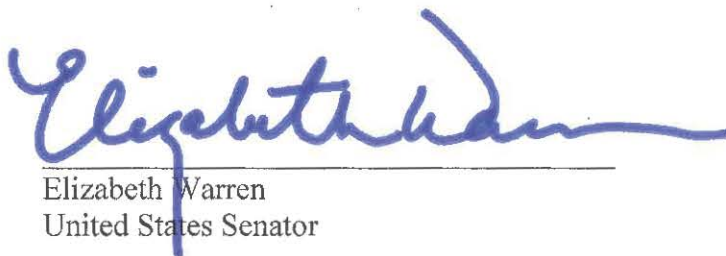
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



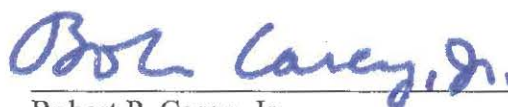
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



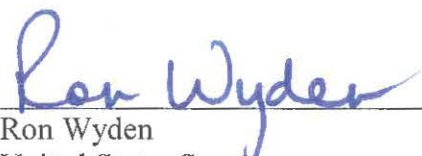
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



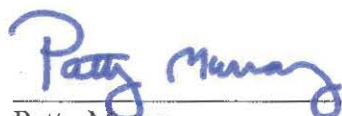
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



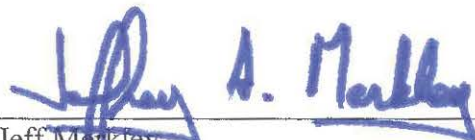
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



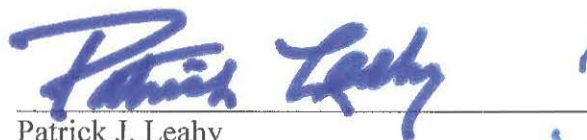
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



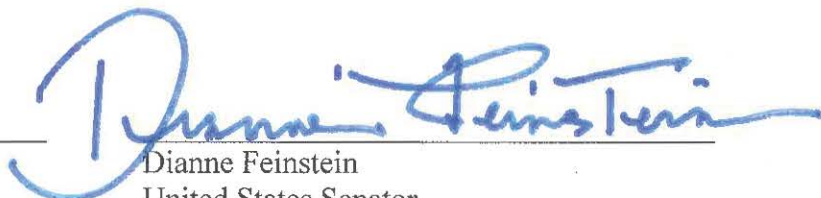
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



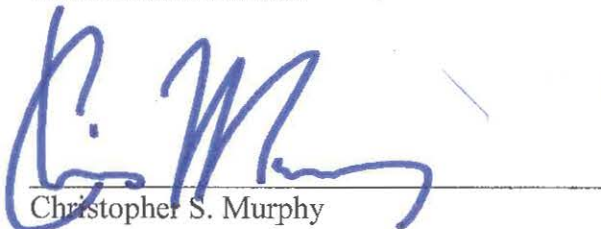
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator



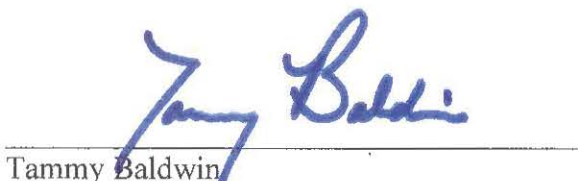
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Cory Booker
United States Senator